(b) to (c) Arising of vacancies and their filling up is a continous process. Vacancies are filled up mainly through open market recruitment, and promotions. While promotions are done departmentally, open market recruitment is done mainly through Railway Recruitment Boards. All efforts are being taken to fill up the vacancies especially of safety categories.

Rail Freight Authority

2990. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a Rail Freight Authority to oversee the establishment of a dedicated freight corridor; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) It has been decided to set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to plan, construct and maintain the Dedicated Freight Corridors. The SPV will also be responsible for movement of trains within its jurisdiction.

Gauge conversion in Rajasthan

†2991. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time frame prescribed for the completion of gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan;

(b) the actual and financial progress of the guage conversion projects in Rajasthan and the reasons for delay; and

(c) the details of the budget provision made for Rewari-Sadulpur, Sriganganagar-Sarupsar and Phulera-Jodhpur, railway line in Rajasthan and whether this provision is sufficient to complete the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARANBHAI RATHWA): (a) to (c) The details of on-going gauge conversion projects in Rajasthan, budget outlay during 2006-07, physical and financial progress and the target wherever fixed are given as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.	Name of project	Anticipated cost	Expenditure upto March, 2006	Budget outlay 2006-07	Physical/ actual progress	Target wherever fixed
1.	Rewari-Sadulpur including Sadulpur-Hissar	306.58	15.48	28.99	6%	
2.	Bhildi-Samdri	244.74	32.85	115.0	18%	Work is being executed by Kutch Railway Company Ltd. Work is likely to be completed during 2007-08.
3.	Ajmer-Chitaurgarh Udaipur	456.00	215.68	194.98	65%	Chittaurgarh-Udaipur section has already been completed and opened for traffic on 27.06.2005. Ajmer-Chittaurgarh is targeted for completion during 2006-07.
4.	Sriganganagar-Sarupsar	143.92	4.27	9.28	5%	
5.	Pipar Road-Bilara	33.44	8.44	25.0	25%	Work is likely to be completed during 2007-08.
6.	Ajmer-Phulera-Ringus-Rewari	469.10	0.01	270.0	20%	Project is under execution by RVNL and targetted for completion during 2007-08.

Phulera-Jodhpur gauge conversion has already been completed and commissioned.

The works are progressing as per availability of resources and funds to the various projects in the State are allocated based on a State-wise formula.

Electrification of Railway Sections

†2992. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of his Ministry for electrification of railway sections;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.